

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A package of a plurality of like articles, having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis, the package comprising:

first and second inner layers, each having a width, extending along the transverse axis, ~~and~~ a height, extending along the longitudinal axis, and a top edge,

the first and second inner layers being joined to one another along at least three longitudinally extending closure lines to form at least two inner chambers, for receiving articles to be packaged, the at least two inner chambers being bounded by the at least three closure lines and the first and second inner layers,

the first and second inner layers being joined at least along respective bottom edge regions thereof;

first and second outer layers, each having a width, extending along the transverse axis, ~~and~~ a height extending along the longitudinal axis, and a top edge,

the first and second outer layers being disposed adjacent the first and second inner layers, respectively,

the first and second outer layers being joined to their respective adjacent first and second inner layers along at least two longitudinally extending closure lines to form at least one outer chamber,

the first and second outer layers being joined, either directly or indirectly, at least along respective bottom edge regions thereof;

a plurality of articles disposed in at least one of the at least two inner chambers, and

a number of articles disposed in an other one of the at least two inner chambers, less than the plurality of articles disposed in the at least one of the at least two inner chambers,

a permanent seal extending across the top of at least one of the at least two inner chambers, to maintain any articles therewithin;

wherein the heights of the first and second outer layers is substantially less than the heights of the first and second inner layers.

2. (Original) The package according to claim 1, wherein the first and second inner layers are contiguously, monolithically formed together along their respective bottom edge regions.
3. (Original) The package according to claim 1, wherein the first and second inner layers comprise separate sheets of material that have been sealed together along their respective bottom edge regions.
4. (Original) The package according to claim 1, wherein the first and second outer layers are contiguously, monolithically formed together along their respective bottom edge regions.
5. (Currently amended) The package according to claim 1, wherein the first and second outer layers comprise separate sheets of material that have been sealed together along their respective bottom edge regions.
6. (Original) The package according to claim 1, wherein each of the first and second inner layers and first and second outer layers is one of: transparent, translucent, opaque.
7. (Original) The package according to claim 1, further comprising:
at least one sheet disposed in at least one outer chamber.
8. (Original) The package according to claim 7, wherein the at least one sheet has indicia disposed thereon.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Original) The package according to claim 1, wherein the bottom edge regions of the first and second inner layers are disposed proximate the bottom edge regions of the first and second outer layers.
12. (Previously presented) A package of a plurality of like articles, having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis, the package comprising:
first and second inner layers, each having a width, extending along the transverse axis, and a height, extending along the longitudinal axis,
the first and second inner layers being joined to one another along at least three longitudinally extending closure lines to form at least two inner chambers, for receiving

articles to be packaged, the at least two inner chambers being bounded by the at least three closure lines and the first and second inner layers,

the first and second inner layers being joined at least along respective bottom edge regions thereof;

first and second outer layers, each having a width, extending along the transverse axis, and a height extending along the longitudinal axis,

the first and second outer layers being disposed adjacent the first and second inner layers, respectively,

the first and second outer layers being joined to their respective adjacent first and second inner layers along at least two longitudinally extending closure lines to form at least one outer chamber,

the first and second outer layers being joined, either directly or indirectly, at least along respective bottom edge regions thereof;

a plurality of articles disposed in at least one of the at least two inner chambers, and

a number of articles disposed in an other one of the at least two inner chambers, less than the plurality of articles disposed in the at least one of the at least two inner chambers,

wherein the first and second outer layers have widths that are less than the widths of the first and second inner layers;

wherein the heights of the first and second outer layers is substantially less than the heights of the first and second inner layers.

13. (Previously presented) A package of a plurality of like articles, having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis, the package comprising:

first and second inner layers, each having a width, extending along the transverse axis, and a height, extending along the longitudinal axis,

the first and second inner layers being joined to one another along at least three longitudinally extending closure lines to form at least two inner chambers, for receiving articles to be packaged, the at least two inner chambers being bounded by the at least three closure lines and the first and second inner layers,

the first and second inner layers being joined at least along respective bottom edge regions thereof;

first and second outer layers, each having a width, extending along the transverse axis, and a height extending along the longitudinal axis,

the first and second outer layers being disposed adjacent the first and second inner layers, respectively,

the first and second outer layers being joined to their respective adjacent first and second inner layers along at least two longitudinally extending closure lines to form at least one outer chamber,

the first and second outer layers being joined, either directly or indirectly, at least along respective bottom edge regions thereof;

a plurality of articles disposed in at least one of the at least two inner chambers, and

a number of articles disposed in an other one of the at least two inner chambers, less than the plurality of articles disposed in the at least one of the at least two inner chambers,

wherein the plurality of articles disposed in the at least one of the at least two inner chambers, are all like articles, and the number of articles disposed in the other one of the at least two inner chambers are the same as those of the plurality of like articles.

14. (Previously presented) A method for forming a package of a plurality of like articles, having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis, the method comprising the steps of:

forming first and second inner layers, each having a width, extending along the transverse axis, and a height, extending along the longitudinal axis, and a top edge,

joining the first and second inner layers to one another along at least three longitudinally extending closure lines to form at least two inner chambers, for receiving articles to be packaged, the at least two inner chambers being bounded by the at least three closure lines and the first and second inner layers,

joining the first and second inner layers at least along respective bottom edge regions thereof;

forming first and second outer layers, each having a width, extending along the transverse axis, and a height extending along the longitudinal axis, and a top edge,

disposing the first and second outer layers adjacent the first and second inner layers, respectively,

joining the first and second outer layers to their respective adjacent first and second inner layers along at least two longitudinally extending closure lines to form at least one outer chamber,

joining the first and second outer layers, either directly or indirectly, at least along respective bottom edge regions thereof;

placing a plurality of articles in at least one of the at least two inner chambers, and

placing a number of articles in an other one of the at least two inner chambers, less than the plurality of articles disposed in the at least one of the at least two inner chambers,

placing a permanent seal extending across the top of at least one of the at least two inner chambers, to maintain any articles therewithin.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of contiguously, monolithically forming the first and second inner layers together along their respective bottom edge regions.

16. (Original) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of forming the first and second inner layers as separate sheets of material that have been sealed together along their respective bottom edge regions.

17. (Original) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of contiguously, monolithically forming the first and second outer layers together along their respective bottom edge regions.

18. (Original) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of forming the first and second layers as separate sheets of material that have been sealed together along their respective bottom edge regions.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of forming each of the first and second inner layers and first and second outer layers as one of: transparent, translucent, opaque.
20. (Original) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of placing at least one sheet in at least one outer chamber.
21. (Original) The method according to claim 20, further comprising the step of placing indicia on the at least one sheet.
22. (Original) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of:
forming a further closure line, extending transversely across and sealing joining top edge regions of the first and second inner layers.
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Original) The method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of positioning the bottom edge regions of the first and second inner layers proximate the bottom edge regions of the first and second outer layers.
25. (Previously presented) A method for forming a package of a plurality of like articles, having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis, the method comprising the steps of:
forming first and second inner layers, each having a width, extending along the transverse axis, and a height, extending along the longitudinal axis,
joining the first and second inner layers to one another along at least three longitudinally extending closure lines to form at least two inner chambers, for receiving articles to be packaged, the at least two inner chambers being bounded by the at least three closure lines and the first and second inner layers,
joining the first and second inner layers at least along respective bottom edge regions thereof;
forming first and second outer layers, each having a width, extending along the transverse axis, and a height extending along the longitudinal axis,
disposing the first and second outer layers adjacent the first and second inner layers, respectively,

joining the first and second outer layers to their respective adjacent first and second inner layers along at least two longitudinally extending closure lines to form at least one outer chamber,

joining the first and second outer layers, either directly or indirectly, at least along respective bottom edge regions thereof;

placing a plurality of articles in at least one of the at least two inner chambers, and

placing a number of articles in an other one of the at least two inner chambers, less than the plurality of articles disposed in the at least one of the at least two inner chambers, and

further comprising the step of providing the first and second outer layers with widths that are less than the widths of the first and second inner layers.

26. (Previously presented) A method for forming a package of a plurality of like articles, having a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis, the method comprising the steps of:

forming first and second inner layers, each having a width, extending along the transverse axis, and a height, extending along the longitudinal axis,

joining the first and second inner layers to one another along at least three longitudinally extending closure lines to form at least two inner chambers, for receiving articles to be packaged, the at least two inner chambers being bounded by the at least three closure lines and the first and second inner layers,

joining the first and second inner layers at least along respective bottom edge regions thereof;

forming first and second outer layers, each having a width, extending along the transverse axis, and a height extending along the longitudinal axis,

disposing the first and second outer layers adjacent the first and second inner layers, respectively,

joining the first and second outer layers to their respective adjacent first and second inner layers along at least two longitudinally extending closure lines to form at least one outer chamber,

joining the first and second outer layers, either directly or indirectly, at least along respective bottom edge regions thereof;

placing a plurality of articles in at least one of the at least two inner chambers, and

placing a number of articles in an other one of the at least two inner chambers, less than the plurality of articles disposed in the at least one of the at least two inner chambers, and

further comprising the steps of selecting the plurality of articles disposed in the at least one of the at least two inner chambers, to be all like articles, and selecting the number of articles disposed in the other one of the at least two inner chambers to be the same as those of the plurality of like articles.